AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) A data monitoring method according to claim 6, 7 or 8, in which in the step of updating the copy inhibition information, the updating should be valid only when an authorized person executes the updating.

Claims 3-5 (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) A data monitoring method according to claim 8, further comprising:

~~monitoring each copy element of monitoring object data consisting of at least one kind of copy element in accordance with at least one kind of copy inhibition information capable of being updated and stored in inhibition information storage; and~~

~~inhibiting input or output of the monitoring object data if the monitoring determines that said each copy element agrees with a kind of said copy inhibition information~~

storing updating logs when the copy inhibition information stored in the inhibition information storage is updated; and

in which the step of updating copy inhibition information, the updating should be executed only when the updating information of the copy inhibition information is later than the stored log information.

7. (Currently Amended) A data monitoring method according to claim 8, further

comprising:

~~monitoring each copy element of monitoring object data consisting of at least one kind of~~

~~copy element in accordance with at least one kind of copy inhibition information capable of~~

~~being updated and stored in inhibition information storage;~~

~~inhibition input or output of the monitoring object data if the monitoring determines that~~

~~said each copy element agrees with a kind of said copy inhibition information; and~~

controlling a copy inhibition or [[a]] an inhibition cancel in accordance with secrecy

management information and user's secrecy management level, said secrecy management

information stored in the inhibition information storage in addition to the copy inhibition

information in advance.

8. (Currently Amended) A data monitoring method comprising:

activating an information obtaining means automatically at the time of inputting

originals;

monitoring each copy element of monitoring object data consisting of at least one kind of

copy element in accordance with at least one kind of copy element in accordance with at least

one kind of copy inhibition information ~~capable of being updated and~~ stored in inhibition

information storage;

inhibition input or output of the monitoring object data if the monitoring determines that

said each copy element agrees with a kind of said copy inhibition information; and

obtaining the copy inhibition information by means of the information obtaining means

from a master information storage on a network by issuing a request if originals of said copy

inhibition information are stored in the master information storage on the network.

9. (Currently Amended) A data monitoring method according to claim 8, comprising:

controlling a copy inhibition or [[a]] an inhibition cancel in accordance with secrecy

management information and user's secrecy management level, said secrecy management

information obtained together with the copy inhibition information at the step of obtaining the

information, said secrecy management information stored in the master inhibition information

storage in addition to the original copy inhibition information in advance.

10. (Currently Amended) A data monitoring method according to claim 6, 7 or 8,

comprising:

canceling a function of stopping the copying after confirming if a user has a right to

cancel the monitoring function or not.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) A data monitoring device according to claim 17, 18 or 19,

further comprising:

updating means updating the copy inhibition information.

13. (Original) A data monitoring device according to claim 12, in which the updating

means inhibits the updating when the updating is not executed by a user having a right to update

and the copy inhibition information has the management information of the updating right as an attribute.

Claims 14-16 (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) A data monitoring device according to claim 19, further comprising:

an inhibition information storage storing at least one kind of copy inhibition information that can be updated;

~~monitoring means monitoring at least one kind of copy element prepared from monitoring object data based on the copy inhibition information;~~

~~inhibition means inhibiting input or output of the monitoring object data if said at least one copy element included in the monitoring object data agrees with one of the copy inhibition information;~~

a log storage storing updating logs when the copy inhibition information in the inhibition information storage are updated; and

in which the updating means obtains the latest copy inhibition information based on the logs of the updating information.

18. (Currently Amended) A data monitoring device according to claim 19, further comprising:

an inhibition information storage storing at least one kind of copy inhibition information that can be updated;

~~monitoring means monitoring at least one kind of copy element prepared from~~ ~~monitoring object data based on the copy inhibition information;~~

~~inhibition means inhibiting input or output of the monitoring object data if said at least~~ ~~one copy element included in the monitoring object data agrees with one of the copy inhibition~~ ~~information; and~~

secrecy management means storing in the inhibition information storage secrecy management information in addition to the copy inhibition information, and controlling a copy inhibition or a inhibition cancel in accordance with secrecy management information and user's secrecy management level.

19. (Currently Amended) A data monitoring device comprising:

~~an inhibition information storage storing at least one kind of copy inhibition information~~ ~~that can be updated;~~

monitoring means <u>activating an information obtaining means automatically at the time of</u> <u>inputting originals and</u> monitoring at least one kind of copy element prepared from monitoring object data based on the copy inhibition information;

inhibition means inhibiting input or output of the monitoring object data if said at least one copy element included in the monitoring object data agrees with one of the copy inhibition information<u>;</u>

a master information storage on the network storing originals of the copy inhibition information; and

information obtaining means obtaining the copy inhibition information from [[a]] <u>said</u>

master information storage on a network by issuing a request ~~if originals of said copy inhibition~~

~~information are stored in the master information storage on the network~~.

20. (Original) A data monitoring device according to claim 19, in which the master

storage stores secrecy management information of each original information in addition to the

copy inhibition information;

the information obtaining means obtains the copy inhibition information and the secrecy

management information; and

further comprising:

secrecy management means controlling a copy inhibition or a inhibition cancel in

accordance with the obtained secrecy management information and user's secrecy management

level.

21. (Original) A data monitoring device according to claim 12, further comprising:

canceling means canceling a function of stopping the copying after confirming if a user

has a right to cancel the monitoring function or not.

22. (Original) A copying device comprising:

first specific information extracting means extracting an ID information unique to a

specific device concerned with the preparation of monitoring object data; and

information imparting means imparting the ID information to the monitoring object data

and preparing a new copied data.

23. (Original) A copying device according to claim 22, in which the ID information is chip ID information imparted to Central Processing Unit (CPU).

24. (Original) A copying device according to claim 22, in which the ID information is an IP address imparted to a device.

25. (Original) A copying device comprising:

second specific information extracting means extracting a specific application information unique to software concerned with the preparation of monitoring object data; and

information imparting means imparting the specific application information to the monitoring object data and preparing a new copied data.

26. (Original) A copying device according to claim 25, in which the specific application information is a mail address registered by a user.

27. (Original) A copying device receiving an monitoring object data from an external device and preparing a copy based on the monitoring object data, comprising:

extracting means analyzing the monitoring object data and extracting unique information specifying a specific device concerned with the preparation of the monitoring object data; and

specific information imparting means imparting the extracted unique information to the monitoring object data.

28. (Original) A copying device according to claim 27, in which the unique information is an ID number specifying a personal computer.

29. (Original) A copying device according to claim 27, in which the unique information is an IP address imparted to a device.

30. (Original) A copying device receiving an monitoring object data from an external device and preparing a copy based on the monitoring object data, comprising:

extracting means analyzing the copied data and extracting unique information specifying specific software concerned with the preparation of the copied data; and

specific information imparting means imparting the extracted unique information to the copied data as new copied data.

31. (Original) A copying device according to claim 30, in which the unique information is a mail address registered by a user.

32. (Original) A copying device according to claim 30, in which the unique information is registration information of software.

33. (Original) A copying device adapting to the network of receiving an monitoring object data from an external device and preparing a copy based on the monitoring object data, comprising:

extracting means extracting an IP address imparted to the copying device; and

specific information imparting means imparting the extracted IP address to the copied

data as new copied data.

34. (Currently Amended) A storage medium storing programs comprising <u>an instruction</u>

<u>set requiring execution of the following steps</u>:

<u>activating an information obtaining means automatically at the time of inputting an object</u>

<u>original;</u>

monitoring each copy element being monitoring object data consisting of at least one

kind of copy element in accordance with at least one kind of copy inhibition information ~~capable~~

~~of being updated and~~ stored in inhibition information storage; ~~and~~

inhibiting to input or output the monitoring object data if the monitoring determines that

said each copy element agrees with a kind of said copy inhibition information<u>, and</u>

<u>obtaining the copy inhibition information by means of the information obtaining means</u>

<u>from a master information storage on a network by issuing a request if originals of said copy</u>

<u>inhibition information are stored in the master information storage on the network</u>.

35. (Currently Amended) A storage medium storing a program <u>according to claim 34,</u>

<u>further</u> comprising <u>an instruction set requiring execution of the following steps</u>:

controlling a copy inhibition or a inhibition cancel in accordance with secrecy

management information and user's secrecy management level, said secrecy management

information stored in the inhibition information storage in addition to the copy inhibition

information in advance.

36. (Original) A storage medium executed by a copying apparatus preparing a copy according to monitoring object data after receiving the monitoring object data from an external device or after preparing the monitoring object data by itself, which storing programs comprising:

extracting ID information unique to a specific device concerned with the preparation of the monitoring object data; and

imparting the ID information to the monitoring object data and preparing a new copied data

37. (Original) A storage medium executed by a copying apparatus preparing a copy according to monitoring object data after receiving the monitoring object data from an external device or after preparing the monitoring object data by itself, which storing programs comprising:

extracting specific application information unique to software concerned with the preparation of the monitoring object data; and

imparting the specific application information to the monitoring object data and preparing a new copied data.

38. (Previously Presented) The data monitoring method according to claim 8, wherein the request executing a step of obtaining the copy inhibition information is issued when the network printer is activated.

39. (Previously Presented) The data monitoring method according to claim 8, wherein the request executing a step of obtaining the copy inhibition information is issued when the printing data is inputted to the image memory or outputted from the image memory.

40. (Previously Presented) The data monitoring device according to claim 19, wherein the information obtaining means obtains the copy inhibition information based on the request issued when the network printer is activated.

41. (Previously Presented) The data monitoring device according to claim 19, wherein the information obtaining means obtains the copy inhibition information based on the request issued when the printing data is inputted to the image memory or outputted from the image memory.